

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/018,455

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Applicant(s)

BECK ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's communication of July 5, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15,34,44-46,48,50 & 51; renumbered 1-8, respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Julie K. Morriss on September 23, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

Line 1, "The invention relates to a" has been changed to --A--;

Line 5, "said" has been changed to --the--;

Line 19, "(Figure 1C)" has been deleted.

In the specification:

Page 1, lines 4-5, ", according to the preamble of Claim 1" has been replaced by a period;

Page 3, lines 13-14, "having the features of Claim 1" has been replaced by a period.

Page 16, line 22, "[word omission]" has been changed to --volume--;

Page 16, line 26, "[word omission]" has been changed to --area--;

Page 31, line 16, the comma has been deleted so as to leave the sentence ending in a period.

In the claims:

Claim 51, line 19, "in" has been changed to --is--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Wakayoshi (GB 2139692, figures 4, 6-11, 14) is the closest art of record and teaches a screw connection for at least two hinge parts, comprising a screw configured for interconnecting the at least two hinge parts, wherein the hinge parts engage one inside the other and have an upper hinge lobe 1, a lower hinge lobe 1', and at least one middle hinge lobe 2, the screw having a screw head 6 and a screw shank 7 that extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe, with a thread permitting the screw shank to be screwed into the lower hinge lobe, and comprising a sleeve 4 that surrounds the screw shank, has elastic properties, and interacts with the upper and middle hinge lobes when the screw is in a screwed-in state, whereby the diameter of the second through opening is less than or equal to the diameter of the first through opening, and the screw has at least one bearing surface for contacting the sleeve.

Claim 15 recites the combination of the screw, hinge parts and sleeve wherein the screw shank extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe and a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank, but is different from Wakayoshi in that the screw shank lacks having an annular collar that, in the screwed-in state is situated in the middle hinge lobe, the annular collar providing the at least one engaging surface to retain and support the sleeve there against and the collar acting as a guide collar for insertion of the screw into the second through opening in the middle lobe and wherein in the circumferential surface of the first through opening is provided at least one longitudinal groove, running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting. While DE 69114045.5 (figures

1, 2) and JP 8-61350 (figures 1, 5) teach the placement of a collar on the screw wherein the collar acts as a guide into the middle lobe there is no teaching in the art of record to suggest further modifying the structure of the hinge of Wakayoshi to include in combination at least one longitudinal groove in the circumferential surface of the first through opening running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting.

Similarly, claim 34 recites the combination of the screw, hinge parts and sleeve wherein the screw shank extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe and a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank and while DE 69114045.5 (figures 1, 2) and JP 8-61350 (figures 1, 5) teach the placement of a collar on the screw wherein the collar acts as a guide into the middle lobe there is no teaching in the art of record to suggest further modifying the structure of the hinge of Wakayoshi to include in combination at least one longitudinal groove in the circumferential surface of the first through opening is provided running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting.

As to claim 50, while this claim does not indicate that the collar acts as a guide it still recites the combination of the screw, hinge parts and sleeve wherein the screw shank extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe and a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank and requires the collar on the screw to be situatable in the middle lobe. While DE 69114045.5 (figures 1, 2) and JP 8-61350 (figures 1, 5) teach the placement of a collar on the screw wherein the collar is situatable in the middle lobe there is no teaching in the art of record to suggest further modifying

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the structure of the hinge of Wakayoshi to include in combination at least one longitudinal groove in the circumferential surface of the first through opening running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting.

Claim 51 recites the combination of the screw, hinge parts and sleeve wherein the screw shank extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe and a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank. While DE 69114045.5 (figures 1, 2) and JP 8-61350 (figures 1, 5) teach the placement of a collar on the screw wherein the collar is situatable in the middle lobe there is no teaching in the art of record to suggest further modifying the structure of the hinge of Wakayoshi to include in combination at least a portion of the circumferential wall of the second through opening having a conical taper.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB